

cence or metallic sheen is not apparent. The beautiful and accurate rendition of the white *Diderma effusum* plasmodiocarp is an exception and contrasts nicely against the brownish surface of a leaf.

References, a comprehensive glossary and an index complete the work. The glossary has 159 terms that are defined. There is a well balanced selection of 150 references on the biology, ecology and floristics of Myxomycetes that represent publications mostly since 1960. Many of these references do not appear in other books on the Myxomycetes. The text is carefully edited and free from typographical errors. The book is apparently only available in a hardback edition and is rather expensive for a book of 183 pages. Persons venturing into the wonderful world of Myxomycetes will find this book a welcome addition and helpful in picture keying many of the more common species.—*Harold W. Keller, Research Associate, BRIT.*

SMITH, EDWIN B. 1994. **Keys to the Flora of Arkansas.** (ISBN 1-55728-312-5, pbk.). The University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, AR 72701. \$30.00. 363 pp, 7" × 10".

A brief introduction notes that the author has devoted more than 25 years to the study of the Arkansas flora. This publication follows the author's 1988 "An Atlas and Annotated List of the Vascular Plants of Arkansas" that provided synonymy, distribution by county dot maps, and chromosome numbers. The dichotomous keys are designed specifically for the Arkansas flora. There are general keys to the ferns, gymnosperms and flowering plants; the latter divided into monocots and dicots. Dichotomous keys lead to the families of ferns and fern allies, families of gymnosperms, the dicot families with a series of separate keys leading to the aquatic dicots, woody dicots with leaves absent at flowering time or partially expanded, woody plants with leaves opposites or whorled, woody plants with leaves alternate and plants herbaceous and terrestrial. The keys ultimately identify genera and species represented by 2,518 taxa that are presently known for Arkansas with an additional 300 species most likely to occur. The author requests voucher specimens for any of the possible additional species since these would represent new state records. The families are arranged according to the old Engler and Prantl system traditionally used in floras. The genera are arranged alphabetically within families. Common names are provided for families and genera but no synonymy is given.

A glossary defines many of the terms used in the keys with examples of representative taxa given in a few cases. More examples of taxa that illustrate a given defined term would make the glossary even more user friendly. The four corners of the outside edge of the book are rounded to prevent the cover and pages from becoming dog-eared from use over time. This book represents an important contribution toward a comprehensive flora of Arkansas that should eventually include keys, species descriptions, and illustrations to all of the known species in the state.—*Harold W. Keller, Research Associate, BRIT.*